



U.S. HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

By Cheryl LaBash

Venezuelans were in the streets the morning of Jan. 23 in a massive show of support for President Nicolás Maduro and the program of the pro-working class Bolivarian Revolution. They expressed determination to push back the latest counterrevolutionary attack emanating from Washington.

Chavista forces routed a short-lived rebellion by members of the National Guard on Jan. 21. According to venezuelaanalysis.com, several dozen right-wing residents then erected burning street barricades and torched symbols of the Bolivarian government. A hand grenade pictured in the hand of a protester once again points to incitement by the U.S. and its regime-change agents in Latin America.

tinyurl.com/ybthw9p6

The U.S. has openly declared its intention to undo the gains made for the poorest and most oppressed Venezuelans by the Bolivarian process — up to and including direct military intervention.

On Jan. 22, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence appealed directly to Venezuelans in a [video message](#) with Spanish subtitles. He declared that the U.S. is with the opposition and called on people to come out in the streets against Maduro's government. In a further escalation, on Jan. 23, President [Donald Trump](#) recognized opposition figure Juan Guaidó as the interim president of Venezuela. The governments of Canada, Colombia and Brazil quickly followed.

Any bloodshed or destruction is on the hands of Pence, President Donald Trump, the Pentagon and their oil-hungry corporate backers.

No war for oil!

Workers and oppressed peoples in the U.S. have no interest in another war for oil, this time waged in Latin America. A recent documentary, ["Venezuela: The Shadow Agenda"](#), explains that the U.S. goal has nothing to



Chavista crowds gathered in Caracas on Jan. 23 to oppose U.S.-backed coups against the Bolivarian Revolution.

do with spreading "democracy." The democracy that Pence espouses is for the rich, the corporations and banks, not for the workers, the poor, Indigenous or Black Venezuelans.

We remember how the U.S. engineered the Sept. 11, 1973, coup in Chile against the democratically elected socialist Salvador Allende. The brutal Pinochet dictatorship followed.

On Jan. 10, Bolivarian Venezuela inaugurated its president, Nicolás Maduro, for a second term. It was a victory that Maduro, formerly a leader of the bus drivers' union, took office. Venezuelans have had to overcome multifaceted imperialist attacks aimed at destroying the pro-socialist, internationalist project begun by Hugo Chávez, which continues the struggle for independence and liberation envisioned by Simón Bolívar.

Years of U.S.-imposed economic sanctions, guarimbas (violent street protests) and unceasing media lies, combined with falling oil prices, have failed to defeat the Maduro presidency. This makes the U.S. suggestions of a military option much more ominous.

In the days leading up to Maduro's inauguration on Jan. 8, [Resumen Latinoamericano](#) shared video of U.S. helicopter gunships landing at a military base in Panama. Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela met with the U.S. Southern Command in Florida on Jan. 5. This was a clear threat to Venezuela. Right-wing regimes in Colombia and Brazil, loyal to their masters in Washington, also present a clear and present danger.

The U.S. war against Bolivarian Venezuela isn't new. In the April 2002 coup attempt against President Hugo Chávez — captured by a visiting Irish film crew in ["The Revolution Will Not be Televised"](#) — Washington showed its hand with fake newscasts and statements of support for the coup-makers.

And on March 9, 2015, President Barack Obama issued an executive order declaring Venezuela a threat to U.S. national security. This action became the basis for further sanctions, causing more hardships for the Venezuelan people.

Now is the time for all opponents of war, racism and economic exploitation to take action to demand:

U.S. hands off Venezuela!

What can we do?

By John Parker

Hey, psst ... that's right, I'm talkin' to you. Can we talk. Want to know what we can do to fight back and win?

What can we do about capitalism's white supremacy, racist violence by the cops against Black and Brown people and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement against im/migrants and refugees? What can we do about mass incarceration, sexual violence and misogyny, anti-trans violence and the general attack on LGBTQ2S communities? What can we do about further war against the living standards and jobs of working and poor people; and about climate change, which threatens our very existence?

In the first place, we must understand who our friends are as compared to our enemies. That's important because many of the solutions proposed by both Democrats and Republicans would have us rely on politicians bought and paid for by the industrial and financial

monopoly entities that actually run this country. We can't depend on them. They profit from our misery. So who can we depend on and get leadership from?

Well, if you look in the mirror, you may see the courageous teachers in Los Angeles, whose strike successfully challenged the ruling-class march towards school

privatization and denial of opportunity for our children. You might see Black political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose determination to remain in the struggle and whose strength outlasted those who would execute him and who now has won the right to appeal — a major win for our

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GLOBAL



25,000 auto workers walk out

An estimated 25,000 workers at about 48 factories went on strike on Jan. 25 to demand higher pay. Minimum wage for maquiladora workers in border towns such as Matamoros, a city with about 130 factories directly south of Brownsville, Texas, is about \$9.20 a day or \$1.15 an hour. Workers are pushing for a 20 percent raise and a one-time bonus of \$1,700.

Read more: Canadian auto workers standing behind 25,000 Mexican auto workers who've walked off the job: tinyurl.com/yab68nqd

FRANCE

Gilets Jaunes Act 12

Tens of thousands of Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vests) demonstrators marched in Paris and other French cities on Feb. 2, the twelfth consecutive weekend (Act 12) of protests. Official media reports say that more than 100,000 participated. Protests are meeting increased police violence.

The police have started shooting "nonlethal" flashballs — rubber bullets that are fired from



weapons with the stopping power of a .38 calibre pistol. They can do real damage. There is a report that someone shot by a flashball lost an eye.

Gilets Jaunes under attack: tinyurl.com/yalkbjfy

IRELAND

Nurses in mass strike

Forty thousand members of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation staged the first in a series of six 24-hour work stoppages on Jan. 30. They are demanding pay parity with other health care professional staff. As it stands now, nurses are the lowest earning degree graduates in the health care system. In addition to pay, conditions in hospitals are appalling.

See [Brexit: Reunification in Ireland?](#) Page 2



Irish nurses in a global economy

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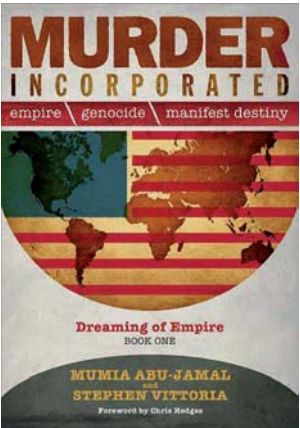


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Rooted in Black liberation struggle Mumia Abu-Jamal's fight for freedom

By Gloria Verdieu

The international movement to Free Mumia has been working hard to make Mumia Abu-Jamal's name as well known as Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela, Marcus Garvey and a host of others who have fought for justice and equality. Freeing Mumia will open the door to freedom for all political prisoners and intensify our efforts to dismantle the prison-industrial complex, end the racist death penalty and illuminate police brutality by redefining the whole purpose of the police — if there is any at all.

Mumia was sentenced to death in 1982 and remained on death row until 2011, when the prosecution agreed to a sentence of life imprisonment without parole. Mumia has been in what he describes as a hellhole for 37 years. While in prison, his mother, sister, daughter and many of his supporters, including Safiya Bukhari and Veronica Jones, have died. Jones was one of the witnesses who came forward to reveal that their testimonies were coerced during the 1982 trial.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, born Wesley Cook to William and Edith Cook, grew up in the housing projects (PJs) of Philadelphia. His mother had come to Philly from North Carolina, part of the migration of Blacks to the North seeking a better life and future for their children.

Mumia's mother taught her children those good old-fashioned manners. His father spent a lot of time with the children, teaching and encouraging them to read. Both wanted the best for the children and thought that education would be the key to their futures. One of the goals set for all the children was that they finish school.

William died while Wesley and Wayne, Mumia's twin brother, were still in grade school, leaving Edith to raise six children.

Wesley was extremely inquisitive. He was seen telling stories to the neighborhood kids. He had many nicknames. One was "Scout" because he was always venturing out. He knew there was more to the world than what was in the PJs. Another was "UN" for United Nations, because when he read or heard about other countries and places he would talk about them.

Wesley was fortunate to have some very strong African teachers. One of them, born in Kenya, gave students their Kikuyu names. Wesley's Kenyan name was Mumia. Wesley liked this name and insisted that he be called Mumia. Abu-Jamal was added later, when he fathered his first child. Abu means father and Jamal was his first son's name.

Another teacher had pictures of W.E.B. DuBois and Malcolm X on the classroom wall to show the students that Black people are leaders. He told the students that Black people are great builders, mathematicians and scientists, and that Africa is the cradle of civilization.

Mumia grew up at a time when Black people were fighting on all fronts for civil rights, equality, justice, the right to sit anywhere on the bus, to use public facilities and just plain basic human rights. Martin Luther King was struggling in the South and racist Gov. George Wallace was running for president. At 14, Mumia convinced a couple of his friends to participate in a protest against Wallace.

At the protest, Mumia and his friends were punched, kicked and beaten by resentful,

angry white people. When they called out for help, police came and joined in kicking and beating them with nightsticks. They were handcuffed, arrested and charged with assault. Fortunately, the case against them was dismissed by a sympathetic judge.

Meeting the Panthers

Mumia was also introduced to the Black Panther Party when he was 14 years old, by someone who handed him a copy of the Black Panther newspaper. He read about people like Patrice Lumumba, Che Guevara and Mao Zedong. He read about South Africa, Cuba, Vietnam and people fighting for justice all over the world. He learned about Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver and other Panthers recognized as world-class revolutionaries.

Mumia began spending a lot of his time organizing with the BPP, passing out flyers and distributing papers. He became the

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Nathan Phillips and Covington Catholic An Indigenous woman's view

By Zola Fish with M. Tiahui

Millions around the world were outraged by the scene of white teenagers wearing "Make America Great Again" caps harassing Native elder Nathan Phillips (Omaha Nation) as he was drumming and singing. It was captured on video after the Indigenous People's March in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 19. Among other things, the racists circled around him and did "tomahawk chop" moves, mocked him and chanted "Build that wall!" referring to Donald Trump's anti-migrant obsession that furloughed federal workers and cut off government services for over a month.

These would-be Hitler Youth are students at **Covington Catholic High School** in Kentucky, an institution with a history of racist outrages and priest sex abuse scandals. They came to Washington to attend an annual right-wing rally against women's reproductive rights, the so-called March for Life, held on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

Now, a racist backlash has set in, attempting to paint the Indigenous elder as the provocateur and the MAGA teens as victims of "fake news." The charge is led by the white supremacist in chief, whose White House press secretary told reporters, "We've reached out and voiced our support" to the Covington students.

For an eyewitness account of the incident by a participant in the Indigenous People's March, read "**Staring Down the Smug Face of American Violence.**"

Here's my personal reaction to what happened.

As a Native woman watching the video of Lekshi (Uncle) Nathan Phillips, I felt proud. I knew that Lekshi is not only an elder who deserves to be respected. He is a warrior and has lived an activist's life.

I knew my beloved Lekshi was a water protector to the very end of the Standing Rock anti-pipeline uprising and that he participated in many other struggles to defend our people. He was a Vietnam era veteran of the Marines, though he did not get shipped to Vietnam. But he is a warrior for his people. I felt proud watching him sing and drum in the face of those Covington kids mocking his song.

Lekshi Phillips was taken from his family when he was a child, growing up without his nation around him. He turned to alcohol, but then he also became sober nearly 40 years ago. He lost his beloved wife a few years back to cancer. His life is like so many Indigenous lives, full of the pain caused by racism, and also full of love for his people. He worked for many years to help Native youth and make

things better for them.

In Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier's statement of support, released Jan. 22, he tells us that the song that Nathan Phillips sang in order to defuse the situation in Washington is a Northern Cheyenne song that has been used for decades as an American Indian Movement (AIM) honoring song. It is an old Cheyenne song that was later used in memory of Raymond Yellow Thunder, an Oglala elder who was murdered by whites in Gordon, Neb.

The kind of taunting and disrespect seen in the video is not new to Indigenous peoples. We are disrespected on a daily basis. In all too many areas, we have cans and other items hurled at us from the windows of passing vehicles. We are taunted by offensive costumes at Halloween, stereotypical roles in the media, and the use of sacred Native imagery and racist mascots for sports teams. We are taunted with erasure. This disrespect is a key part of settler colonialism and capitalism.

The march that Lekshi Phillips participated in celebrated Indigenous solidarity, part of an effort to remind the U.S. government that we are still here. This march and the issues it raised were largely ignored by mainstream media such as CNN. They silence us. Think about how rarely you hear an Indigenous person actually speaking about our issues on television. So why does the bourgeois press make this the big news out of Indian Country that they decide to notice, when there is so much going on in Native communities?

News agencies need to hire more Native journalists who could cover our stories from our perspective — like our missing and murdered Indigenous sisters and the fight to

free our Brother Leonard Peltier, who has been wrongly imprisoned for 44 years now. But now they will devote countless hours to featuring the "brave" young men from Covington Catholic who somehow were "assaulted" by an elder with a hand drum, smearing Nathan Phillips while continuing to silence Indigenous voices and issues.

The Catholic Church is also in this up to its ears. It is the same church that converted millions of Indigenous people at the point of a sword. They ran the missions in California that enslaved Native peoples, even making a saint out of Junípero Serra. Their priests and nuns ran many of the residential schools across North America where thousands of Indigenous children were abused and beaten for speaking their languages. The Catholic Church sent known pedophile priests to parishes on reservations, not caring what happened to our children. It is the same church that has refused to rescind its racist Doctrine of Discovery.

Indigenous People's March in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 19.

Some people have suggested that the Covington bigots be punished by doing community service at a reservation. Personally, I do not think Indigenous people are a teaching moment for white people. It's not a punishment to do community service at a reservation. Nor should it be our job to teach them to have respect for other humans. [📷](#)



SLL PHOTO: EMMA ROSE

Unexpected Brexit result: Irish reunification?

By Lallan Schoenestein

British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal, the outcome of a plan to withdraw from the European Union, suffered a historic defeat in Parliament on Jan. 15.

A major obstacle to the Brexit plan is the border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

Brexit would cause the border in Ireland to become the only land border between the U.K. and the EU. It creates the specter of a new customs and regulatory border patrolled by British troops.

Currently, there are no border posts, physical barriers or checks on people or goods crossing the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Now, Brexit has "encouraged many, or some nationalists in Northern Ireland, along with some unionists, to think more favorably about the prospect of a United Ireland," reports the Jan. 25 **Irish Times**.

Brexit would be catastrophic to the gains of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement made in the northern city of Belfast, Ireland. It was an agreement on how Northern Ireland should be governed, made between the Irish government and the British government, that included the largest nationalist and unionist political parties. The agreement laid the foundation for a peaceful process that would eventually lead to Irish reunification.

Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Party, has made it clear to the British government that if they exit the EU without a solution to the border problems, "it is absolutely incumbent on them to put the constitutional future to the people here through a unity referendum." (**An Phoblacht.com**, Jan. 19)

Taoiseach (Irish prime minister) Leo Varadkar raised the fear that Brexit would mean that Ireland and Britain would be treated as one block in relation to the rest of Europe.

In Northern Ireland the only supporter of Brexit is the hard-line Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), an important prop in Prime Minister Theresa May's conservative government.

The EU had proposed that the Belfast Agreement could be upheld if all of Ireland remained fully aligned with the EU's customs union and part of the single market after Brexit.

The 'backstop'

In an attempt to make the Brexit deal more acceptable, Theresa May has agreed to a "backstop" measure in the terms of Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

The backstop is a measure in the Brexit deal that ensures a continuation of the current border with no military posts, barriers or checks on people and goods crossing between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The terms of the backstop would remain in place even if the hard-line Brexiteers do succeed in forcing a withdrawal from the EU "over a no-deal cliff edge" on the March 29 legal deadline. (According to "Brexit: All you need to know about Britain leaving the EU" from the anti-Irish **BBC**.)

Right-wing opponents like the DUP fear that the backstop could become permanent and weaken the English partition of Ireland.

In Scotland, unionist members of Parliament argue that backstop undercuts Brexit and allows the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) to demand separate arrangements.

The Irish, Scottish and Welsh people all voted to remain in the EU at the time of the original Brexit vote in 2016.

Scotland and Wales under Brexit

Scotland and Wales have the status of devolved nations which provides for more local autonomy. They had been making many of their own arrangements within the European Union.

The devolved administrations have argued that they've not been allowed a role in the Brexit negotiations.

Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon of the SNP, said, "To be frank, there wasn't much indication that the prime minister is listening to, or hearing, the concerns of the people of Scotland — and no doubt across Britain — about trade and the economy and population." (**The Guardian.com**, Jan. 23) [📷](#)

What was won in Los Angeles teachers' strike

By John Parker

For almost two years the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Superintendent Austin Beutner, whose background is business and not education, had rejected proposals to invest in public schools.

They rejected the teachers' demands for lower class sizes; rejected insuring enough full-time nurses, counselors and librarians sufficient for the needs of every school; rejected a commitment to quality education, including music, art and science — not more testing.

Instead, the district was aggressively pushing ahead plans to enable the increase of charter schools over public schools in order to defund public education in favor of private schools for the sake of corporate interests and the disempowerment of the working class. This is what the ruling class is doing nationally.

And, that is what the historic UTLA strike was about, pushing back against the attack on public education and the 97% people of color who make up the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

According to many teachers, the Jan. 22 contract agreement had significant gains that inspired respect for teachers. This is in spite of the fact that there were also disappointing allowances given to LAUSD and their corporate interests. The overall positive impact has encouraged teachers in other cities nationally from Oakland, Calif., to Denver to Virginia, where education workers are ready to strike as well.

Community, student, parent support

The strength of the union was bolstered by the massive community, student and parent support for the strike.

In spite of pouring rain almost every day of the strike, rallies of about 30,000 teachers were joined by thousands of community members, other unions and students. And, the strike was very visible to the community since the schools had active picket lines that community members could easily take part in or address with honking horns starting at 7 a.m.

That strength forced the district to agree to clauses in the agreement finally addressing the demand for full-time nurses, librarians and counselors. The agreement is to begin immediately by covering about half of the need this year and then completing coverage next year.

After seeing the tremendous outpouring of solidarity for the teachers, the mayor intervened, attempting to avoid a longer strike, one which could affect his political aspirations.

"There were some real disappointments due to fears causing a lack of militancy on the part of the union leadership. But, overall and in terms of making progress that we will continue to build on, this was a victory," said Ron Gochez, a longtime United Teachers Los Angeles member and teacher who's also a part of the organization Unión del Barrio, which has many members in UTLA and played a major role in raising community support for the strike.

Assistance to immigrants

Gochez mentioned an example that especially helped the community: forcing the district to agree to assist migrants threatened because of their immigration status. The agreement specifies that the district must provide "at least one attorney and necessary support staff to address immigration related concerns ... and coordinating legal support from local organizations already doing this work." This support includes a hotline for students and families facing the threat of deportation.

Another gain in the new contract is the elimination of the clause in the past agree-

ment with LAUSD that did not allow a cap on class sizes. The union leadership refused to back down from the demand to eliminate Section 1.5 of Article 18 of the previous contract, in spite of threats to end negotiations.

An additional gain seen by many teachers is the creation of 30 community schools in "high need areas," run primarily by local leadership made up of community and UTLA members — leadership that includes having a say on the budget for those schools, where usually it is just the principal and the district who determine budget and school policy. This will have a profound effect, especially on Black and Brown communities in Los Angeles.

Threat of charter schools remains

However, the danger posed by charter schools and co-location schools that share the same space with public schools is still a serious threat to public education and the right of students to quality education.

"We want to get rid of them completely," said Gochez regarding charters. "They are a cancer and every penny spent on charters is a penny taken away from public education."

In relation to co-location schools, Gochez mentioned how these schools leach off of the money spent by public schools in terms of sports, libraries and more. They do this when charter students use these services but the charter pays little to maintain them.

"Co-location charters are a cancer and also a culture. If enrollment at public schools goes down, they try to take those rooms," Gochez said.

In addition, the classroom size, librarian and counselor additions — although in a much better position of being implemented in the schools than before this contract was signed — can be sabotaged if LAUSD forces UTLA into a grievance procedure regarding those agreements.

These disappointments may be why, according to Gochez, about a quarter of the teachers didn't vote at all, and about 19 percent voted no.

"This is significant. ... We didn't get everything we wanted, but it was a step toward progress." In terms of what the district was first offering, originally it included no caps on class sizes or guarantees of nurses in the schools and offered only a 2 percent wage increase, but they were forced to raise that to 6 percent.

"I think if we held out for another week, we may have been able to get more, but now we just need to keep on fighting," Gochez continued.

Labor unions strengthened

Unions in general have been on the defensive and, like in this situation, up against billionaires fighting for privatization. The ruling class nationally sees educating the working class as an impediment to profits and control. The fact that UTLA held a strike resulting in an even more united force with the community — one that received national respect — means that any attacks or backsliding on the part of the billionaires, their politicians and LAUSD will now be met with a much stronger ability to fight back.

Another lesson of this strike concerns a glimpse into the future. Socialists always talk about taking the means of production away from the ruling class billionaires so that the working class can make the vital decisions concerning people's lives and children's lives.

Imagine if it were the teachers who decided how much would go into public education — would their concerns be just about themselves? Although teachers don't make nearly enough, especially when considering that they reach into their own pockets to make up for the lack of funds in teaching their students, buying pencils and teaching aids and more, what was heard the loudest from them was about the needs of the students and the communities they live in.

Who is more qualified to decide the fate of our children — those that put students' concerns first or those that represent Wall Street's interests, like Austin Beutner, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District? Let Gochez illustrate this with his talk at



SLL PHOTOS: REECE EVANS

UTLA press conference on Jan 18 and City Hall rally on Jan. 22.

"We have the parents, students and community leaders here because they know this cause is righteous. We understand that this fight is not just for the teachers, the librarians, the psychologists of Los Angeles. This fight is for the defense of public education at the national level. We understand that the billionaire capitalist class are hell bent on dismembering public education because public education is one of the fundamental sectors they have to destroy to keep the working class at the bottom of society. But we understand that we cannot afford to lose this battle because the future of public education, the future of the dignity and respect of our profession, the future of a decent education for our children is what's at stake. We're here to defend the rights of working-class people."

Thank you UTLA and the community and students for fighting the good fight. [heart icon]

Teachers' strike vs. school privatization

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), representing more than 30,000 teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses and other school staff, waged a militant six-day strike in mid-January. They won enormous grassroots support from students, parents, the labor movement and the entire working-class community of Los Angeles. A settlement with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) was reached on Jan. 22, and school workers returned to the job on Jan. 23.

A clear majority of teachers and school workers voted for the new contract, which includes wage increases and provisions for smaller classes, more essential staff such as nurses and counselors, reduction of standardized testing, and a community schools program meant to give more input to local residents. Read more about the settlement on the [UTLA's website](#).

While people are still discussing the outcome and specifics of the agreement, it's clear that the UTLA's strength and overwhelming community support pushed back LAUSD and Superintendent Austin Beutner, both of whom represent corporate interests determined to destroy public education. The spread of privately run charter schools that take funding and other resources from public schools — whose students are mainly Black, Brown and working class — was a major issue in the strike.

On Jan. 18, several UTLA chapters joined with Unión del Barrio for a large press conference of students, teachers, parents and community organizations at South Central Los Angeles' Maya Angelou High School to demonstrate the broad community support for striking teachers.

Struggle-La Lucha correspondent John Parker spoke at the press conference, representing the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the International Action Center-West Coast. Following are his remarks:

"New Orleans is the largest nationwide experiment in charter schools — and let me tell you, it fails disabled students, it fails Black and Brown students, creating forced segregation to deny working-class children a decent education. It fails communities who've lost their right to local schools, so their children now must travel two hours, leaving at 6



SLL PHOTO: REECE EVANS

John Parker speaking at the Jan. 18 press conference.

o'clock in the morning and getting home at 5 o'clock in the evening. It fails teachers, whose unions and job skills are forced out for temporary, unskilled teaching staff. The evidence is clear: charters and privatization of education are means to a bitter end.

"This privatization and gutting of essential school staff and programs, this denial of a livable wage for teachers, is not an accident. This is a national phenomenon reflecting the wishes of the owners of capital. And capitalism doesn't want educated workers. As it decays, it requires cheap labor and quick profits, and quality education gets in the way of that.

"But what they require is not our concern. They can be stopped if we march, walk or roll on the picket lines side by side with teachers who have the potential to create a historic movement, like West Virginia teachers did last year when they sparked a viral movement from the South to the Midwest — a movement that benefited teachers, school workers and especially students, and inspired the imagination of our class.

"I'm a proud parent of a confident, intelligent young Black man who had his education in the LA public school system. I'll be damned if I'm going to let some snotty-nosed, rich, privileged, self-serving representative of the owners of capital — I'm talking about Beutner now — destroy public education as it was destroyed in New Orleans.

"And I ain't the only one. I'm a member of the Harvard Boulevard Block Club. This is my neighborhood, this is our community of Black and Brown working people united, and we'll fight like hell to stop that destruction. We remain with UTLA, we remain with all the school workers and teachers who are defending our students' right to a decent life that only a quality education can provide." [heart icon]



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ESTADOS UNIDOS: ¡Fuera de Venezuela Bolivariana!

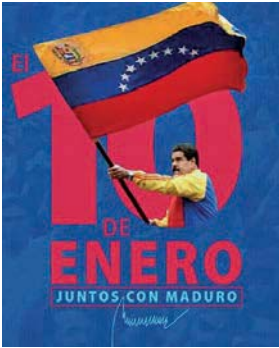
Por Cheryl LaBash

Lxs venezolanos se lanzaron a las calles la mañana del 23 de enero en una muestra masiva de apoyo al presidente Nicolás Maduro y el programa de la Revolución Bolivariana que beneficia a la clase trabajadora. Expresaron su determinación de hacer retroceder el último ataque contrarrevolucionario emanando de Washington.

Fuerzas chavistas derrotaron una rebelión de corta duración por parte de miembros de la guardia nacional el 21 de Enero. Según venezuelanalysis.com, varias docenas de residentes derechistas luego erigieron barricadas en la calle y quemaron símbolos del gobierno bolivariano. La granada de mano fotografiada en manos de un manifestante una vez más apunta a la incitación de los Estados Unidos y sus agentes de cambio de régimen en Latinoamérica.

Estados Unidos ha declarado abiertamente sus intenciones de deshacer los avances logrados por el proceso bolivariano para el pueblo venezolano más pobre y oprimido—incluyendo hasta la intervención militar directa.

El 22 de enero, el vice presidente Mike Pence se dirigió a lxs venezolanos en un video con subtítulos en español. Declaró que Estados Unidos está con la oposición y pidió que la gente saliera a las calles en contra del gobierno del



presidente Maduro. En una escalada de hostilidad, el 23 de Enero el presidente Donald Trump reconoció al líder de la oposición Juan Guaidó como el presidente interino de Venezuela. Rápidamente, los gobiernos de Canadá, Colombia y Brasil siguieron el ejemplo.

Cualquier destrucción o derramamiento de sangre estará en las manos de Pence, el presidente Donald Trump, el Pentágono y sus partidarios corporativos hambrientos de petróleo.

¡Ninguna guerra por petróleo!

Lxs trabajadores y el pueblo oprimido en los EUA no tienen ningún interés en otra guerra por petróleo, esta vez librada en América Latina. Un reciente documental, ‘Venezuela: La oscura causa’, explica que el objetivo de los EUA no tiene nada que ver con la propagación de la “democracia”. La democracia que defiende Pence es para los ricos, las corporaciones y los bancos, no para lxs trabajadores, lxs pobres, lxs indígenas o lxs venezolanxs negrxs.

Recordamos cómo EUA diseñó el golpe de estado del 11 de septiembre de 1973 en Chile contra el socialista democráticamente elegido Salvador Allende. Le siguió la brutal dictadura de Pinochet.

El 10 de enero, Venezuela Bolivariana inauguró a su presidente, Nicolás Maduro, por un segundo término. Fue una victoria el que Maduro, ex dirigente del sindicato de conducto-

res de autobuses, asumiera el cargo. Lxs venezolanxs han tenido que sobrevivir ataques imperialistas multifacéticos dirigidos a destruir el proyecto pro-socialista e internacionalista comenzado por Hugo Chávez que continúa la lucha por la independencia y la liberación prevista por Simón Bolívar.

Los años de sanciones económicas impuestas por Estados Unidos, las guarimbas, y las mentiras incesantes en los medios de comunicación, combinadas con la caída del precio del petróleo, no han logrado derrotar la presidencia de Maduro. Esto hace que las propuestas de una opción militar por Estados Unidos sean mucho más siniestras.

En los días antes de la inauguración de Maduro, el 8 de enero, Resumen Latinoamericano compartió un video de helicópteros de combate estadounidenses aterrizando en una base militar en Panamá. El presidente de Panamá Juan Carlos Varela, se reunió con el Comando Sur de los Estados Unidos en Florida el 5 de enero. Esto fue una clara amenaza contra Venezuela. Los regímenes de derecha en Colombia y Brasil, leales a sus amos en Washington, también presentan un peligro claro e inminente.

La guerra de los Estados Unidos contra Venezuela Bolivariana no es nada nuevo. En el intento de golpe de estado de abril del 2002 contra el presidente Hugo Chávez – capturado por un equipo de filmación irlandés visitante en “La revolución no será televisada” – Washington mostró su mano con noticias falsas y



FOTO: ORINOCOTRIBUNE

Caracas, Venezuela, 2 de febrero.

declaraciones de apoyo a los golpistas.

Y el 9 de marzo del 2015, el presidente Barack Obama emitió una orden ejecutiva declarando a Venezuela una amenaza para la seguridad nacional de los EUA. Esta acción se convirtió en la base para nuevas sanciones, causando más dificultades para el pueblo venezolano.

Ahora es el momento para que todxs lxs opositores a la guerra, el racismo y la explotación económica tomen medidas y exijan: Estados Unidos: ¡Fuera de Venezuela! 🇺🇸

Declaración del Gobierno Revolucionario Cubano: Debe cesar la agresión contra Venezuela



El Gobierno Revolucionario de la República de Cuba condena y rechaza enérgicamente el intento de imponer, a través de un golpe de estado, un gobierno títere al servicio de los Estados Unidos en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, y expresa su invariable solidaridad con el Gobierno del presidente constitucional Nicolás Maduro Moros.

Los verdaderos objetivos de las acciones

contra Venezuela son controlar los vastos recursos de esa hermana nación y destruir el valor de su ejemplo, como proceso emancipador y de defensa de la dignidad e independencia de Nuestra América.

Como expresara el presidente Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez: «La soberanía de nuestros pueblos se dirime hoy en la actitud ante Venezuela. Respaldar el legítimo derecho de

la hermana nación a definir su destino es defender la dignidad de todos».

No deben olvidarse otros intentos como el golpe militar del 2002 y el golpe petrolero del 2003, la agresiva Orden Ejecutiva de los Estados Unidos que califica a Venezuela como «una amenaza inusual y extraordinaria a la seguridad nacional y a la política exterior» de la superpoten. 🇺🇸



Mumia Abu-Jamal

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Philly chapter’s lieutenant of information and started writing articles for the Black Panther newspaper. At that time — in 1969 — the paper was selling 100,000 copies a week.

At 15, Mumia was already known nationwide for his journalism. The local police, FBI and CIA added this information to their existing file on him. Some of what he wrote in the paper and said at various rallies was used against him at his trial years later.

BPP organizers in New York took notice of Mumia. He was sent to New York and then to Oakland, the Party’s national headquarters. He reported on the police assassination of 21-year-old Fred Hampton, chairman of the Illinois BPP chapter, and many other actions by the capitalist state against the BPP.

Revolutionary journalist

Combining his writing and vocal skills, he started working for a local radio station. Mumia evolved into an award-winning journalist: the voice for the voiceless. His voice was and still is amazing, not only in content, but in presentation. When he speaks, people listen.

He had many opportunities to work for some of the big radio stations, but when he revealed his dreadlocks and insisted on keeping his name, it was always too ethnic, too Black.

Nevertheless, he interviewed many famous people: Angela Davis, Alex Haley, Bob Marley and even President Jimmy Carter.

The revolutionary MOVE organization, demonized by the government and corporate

media in Philadelphia, allowed Mumia to cover them because he was direct and honest. He attended all the MOVE trials. He took off his hat, revealing his dreads, expressed his outrage on the radio show and was then fired because he was not a “team player.”

He continued to report on MOVE activities, turning stories in to the Mutual Black Network and National Public Radio, doing interviews and attending press conferences. At one press conference, notorious racist Mayor Frank Rizzo — formerly the chief of police — exploded and warned Mumia about his reporting. Rizzo told him that he would be held responsible for what he said.

Mumia also worked part time as a cab driver. That’s what he was doing on the early morning of Dec. 8, 1981, when he went to the aid of his younger brother, who was involved in a physical confrontation with a Philadelphia police officer.

In that confrontation, Mumia was shot and beaten into unconsciousness. He awoke shackled to a hospital bed, charged with the first degree murder of Daniel Faulkner, the cop who had confronted his brother.

His death warrant was signed twice, on June 1, 1995, and October 13, 1999, by Gov. Tom Ridge. Both times, a militant people’s movement stopped the execution and eventually won his removal from death row.

After nearly four decades of struggle demanding that Mumia get a new trial, he may finally get his day in court — which means he could eventually be physically free.

Gloria Verdieu is a longtime leader of the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia.

Full report: tinyurl.com/yaex2eb

What can we do?

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movement and the national liberation struggles of all oppressed working people. Oh yeah, you’ll also see yourself — because you, as a member of our class, in unity with all the sectors of our working class, are the solution.

That unity is probably one of the most important weapons that empowers our class — as long as it remains principled. In other words, we don’t throw any sector of our class under the bus for any temporary gains. The need to fight racism, misogyny, LGBTQ2 oppression and the persecution of migrants must never be questioned, and these issues must never be pitted in opposition to each other.

Unfortunately, when they ask us to support U.S. imperialist wars, that is exactly what is being called into question — our solidarity with the international working class. We must never forget that U.S. imperialist war eats up all the resources necessary for the basic needs of people in this country.

So, what can we do? We can build a movement that puts the building of unity of our class and unity of all progressive forces in society, especially left and socialist forces, at the forefront. We can build a movement that

therefore rejects racism and sexism. And, for that matter, rejects any sophisticated sounding new or old ideologies attempting to erode our solidarity with each other by directing our anger against each other, rather than against the real enemy.

We can also build a movement that emphatically and consistently says No! to U.S. wars and the phony justifications for those wars, like the attempts to pit us against the people of Venezuela and their elected government.

March 16 in Los Angeles: Unity for Revolution and Socialism Conference

And, we can join forces with a gathering of revolutionaries dedicated to doing all of the above, by attending the conference hosted by Struggle for Socialism/La Lucha por Socialismo, being held this March 16 in Los Angeles. Many organizations and individuals are being invited to participate for a dialogue on solutions and immediate steps to move forward in revolutionary unity for the purpose of defeating U.S. war, racism and capitalism and for building socialism.

So, what are you going to do? (Hint: get to Los Angeles! Call (323) 306-6240 for more details.)

